

HARRIS COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT

1991 Annual Report

The Changing Face of the American Family



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John A. Cocoros,
leaving a legacy of leadership in juvenile corrections.

During his 12 years as Chief and Executive Director of the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department, John Cocoros worked tirelessly to develop effective programs to ensure that each child received the ultimate in care, counseling and supervision. Through his efforts, the Detention Center and the Department have been recognized as the best in the nation. Professional delegations from all over the world come to Harris County to study innovations in juvenile justice and agency programs. Under John Cocoros' leadership, the Department met the highest standards in the nation set by the American Correctional Association, qualifying for accreditation.

John encouraged staff input and a team approach in working with young offenders. Community support and participation in the Department's mission increased and, today, there are almost as many volunteers as paid staff working with our delinquent children.

John Cocoros, now president of the International Correctional Alliance, continues working to find solutions to the growing problems of crime and violence.

We wish him well and thank him for the excellence which distinguishes our department.

TO THE CITIZENS OF HARRIS COUNTY

The 1991 annual report of the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department is a testament to the shocking increases in juvenile crime and violence in our community. The number of guns and other weapons in the hands of children resulted in unspeakable tragedies in many neighborhoods. The number of murders in which juveniles were involved almost tripled in the last two years. Drug and drug-related crimes continue to be a serious problem, and the evidence of youth gangs is alarming. The Department handled more cases than ever before and provided services to more than 23,000 youths and their families. More probation officers were required to handle the rising caseload, and, for the first time, a population cap was imposed on the Detention Center by the Juvenile Board. Support from the community brought hope to this bleak picture. Ordinary citizens as well as corporate leaders stepped forward in record numbers to work as volunteers, fund arts programs and provide an educational video for Hispanic children. We are immensely grateful for all of the "points of light" who have positively influenced the children in the juvenile justice system, thereby helping the Department impact the avalanche of crime in our community.

Jon Lindsay
Harris County Judge
Chairman, Harris County Juvenile Board

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1991 brought significant changes to our Department. John Cocoros, Chief and Executive Director for the past 12 years, announced his decision to move from the Department into the international field of corrections. During his years with Harris County, plans and procedures were developed which enabled us to deal effectively with the rapid increase of juvenile crime we are experiencing. Caseloads for probation officers reached all-time highs in 1991. The Detention Center became so crowded the Juvenile Board set a cap and requested additional staff for the courts and field so that cases could be expedited. Yet, morale remained high for staff members who approached their tasks with professionalism and dedication. Visitors to the office often commented on the enthusiasm they found among our staff. We continue to be supported and encouraged by the generosity of volunteers who perform a myriad of needed tasks. Funding from the private sector enables our creative arts programs to expand, helping children build self-esteem and self-discipline previously missing in their lives. Our report this year speaks of quiet and unheralded heroes, those who have opened their hearts to help children in peril in our community.

Teresa V. Ramirez
Executive Director

THE CHANGING FACE OF THE AMERICAN FAMILY

The face of the American family is changing dramatically, and it may not be for the better. As might be expected, children with neither choice nor voice are the first to suffer.



For an increasing number of children, a two-parent household is only a dream, just a mythical scene from a television rerun. The reality is that over 16 million children live with just one parent. Unwed teenage mothers drop out of school to raise babies alone.

Many school children finish their school days before working parents arrive home.



By 1995, 75% of all school age children will have both parents in the work force leaving long hours without adult supervision. But these families are no more affluent in spite of time devoted to work; in fact, one in five children live in poverty with little hope of change. Tragically, some parents have lost their children to the battle with violence and drugs in their own neighborhoods. Others have been pulled into the spiral of poverty.



Yet, some family ties still endure. Aging grandparents with limited resources and energy are trying to protect children from the ravages of urban crime.

Aunts, uncles and cousins are opening their homes to the children of relatives and friends. Foster parents are taking in more and more children whose natural families have been torn apart.

Thanks to the sacrifices of many who have already raised their own families, some children are not abandoned to the streets.



These compassionate people are a safety net from a statistic too shameful to forget. Every night in Houston hundreds of children sleep in shelters or huddle terrified under bridges and in abandoned buildings, easy prey for abusers. Houston and Harris County are fortunate to have residents who provide hugs and haven to thousands of neglected children.

We salute these caring and valuable members of the community.



HARRIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT

Harris County Commissioners' Court is a five-member elected body responsible for the general administration of county business. As a county agency, the Juvenile Probation Department receives most of its annual budget from the Commissioners' Court.

In 1991, \$21,468,082 was allocated for staff salaries, direct client services, private placements, residential services and general operating expenses. The Commissioners' Court also determines county personnel regulations and sets operational guidelines followed by the Department. Commissioners' Court support enables our Department to provide services to thousands of this community's troubled youth and their families each year.

Jon Lindsay
Harris County Judge

Steve Radack
Commissioner Precinct Three

El Franco Lee
Commissioner Precinct One

Jerry Eversole
Commissioner Precinct Four

Jim Fonteno
Commissioner Precinct Two

HARRIS COUNTY JUVENILE BOARD

The Harris County Juvenile Board is the governing body of the Juvenile Probation Department. As mandated by state statute, the Juvenile Board monitors all of the Department's programs, institutional services and residential placement facilities. The Board also sets administrative policies and approves the Department's annual budget prior to submission to Commissioners' Court.

During 1991, the Juvenile Board continued to deal with a multitude of serious problems caused by the escalating numbers of children handled by the

Probation Department. In order to maintain proper standards of care and safety for both children and staff, the Board set a population cap on the Detention Center to prevent overcrowding and was allowed ten additional probation officers to facilitate handling of cases.

Judge Jon Lindsay
County Judge
Chairman

Judge Eric Andell
315th District Court
Program Committee

Judge Robert L. Lowry
313th District Court
Vice Chairman
Program Committee
Personnel Committee
Tri-Board Committee

Judge Mary Bacon
338th District Court
Buildings and Grounds Committee

Judge Bill Elliott
311th District Court

Judge Robert B. Baum
314th District Court
Board Secretary
Program Committee
Tri-Board Committee
Budget and Finance Committee

Judge Sharolyn Wood
127th District Court

JUVENILE BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Advisory Committee provides citizen participation in the juvenile justice system, making recommendations and providing consultation.

Joe Bart
Attorney
Chairman

David Longoria
Attorney

Shirley C. Hunter
Attorney

Alice O'Neill
Psychotherapist

Ramona John
Attorney

HARRIS COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT

1991 Highlights

An upswing in juvenile crime resulted in record breaking numbers leaving probation officers with staggering caseloads. In one month alone, 705 referrals were handled. The number of children held in the Detention Center reached alarming totals month after month. The Juvenile Board set a cap of 145, plus a twenty per cent margin to ensure compliance with state and national standards. The hiring of ten additional probation officers speeded up processing of cases. To keep up with the increasing number of documents and reports generated by greater numbers of cases, a computer network was set up at the main building linking personal computers. New programs were explored and existing ones expanded in attempts to reach the alarming numbers of serious offenders.

The Urban Mentors program continued to successfully pair probationers with community leaders who serve as positive role models. Probationers were introduced to a variety of careers and professional opportunities by successful businessmen and recognized at an annual banquet.

Creative writing was added to the variety of arts offered to probationers at the department. Through additional funding from the Brown Foundation, the University of Houston's Writers in the Schools began teaching the techniques of written self-expression to children in our institutions. The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges gave their "Nation's Most Unique and Innovative Program" award to the department's classes in art, writing, theater and video provided for youth on probation and in detention. During 1991, 3,000 classroom hours of instruction were offered to over 8,000 delinquent children. The project was entirely funded through private donations and provides children with opportunities to exhibit their works in galleries, perform original plays before theater audiences and publish their writings.

INTAKE COURT SERVICES DIVISION

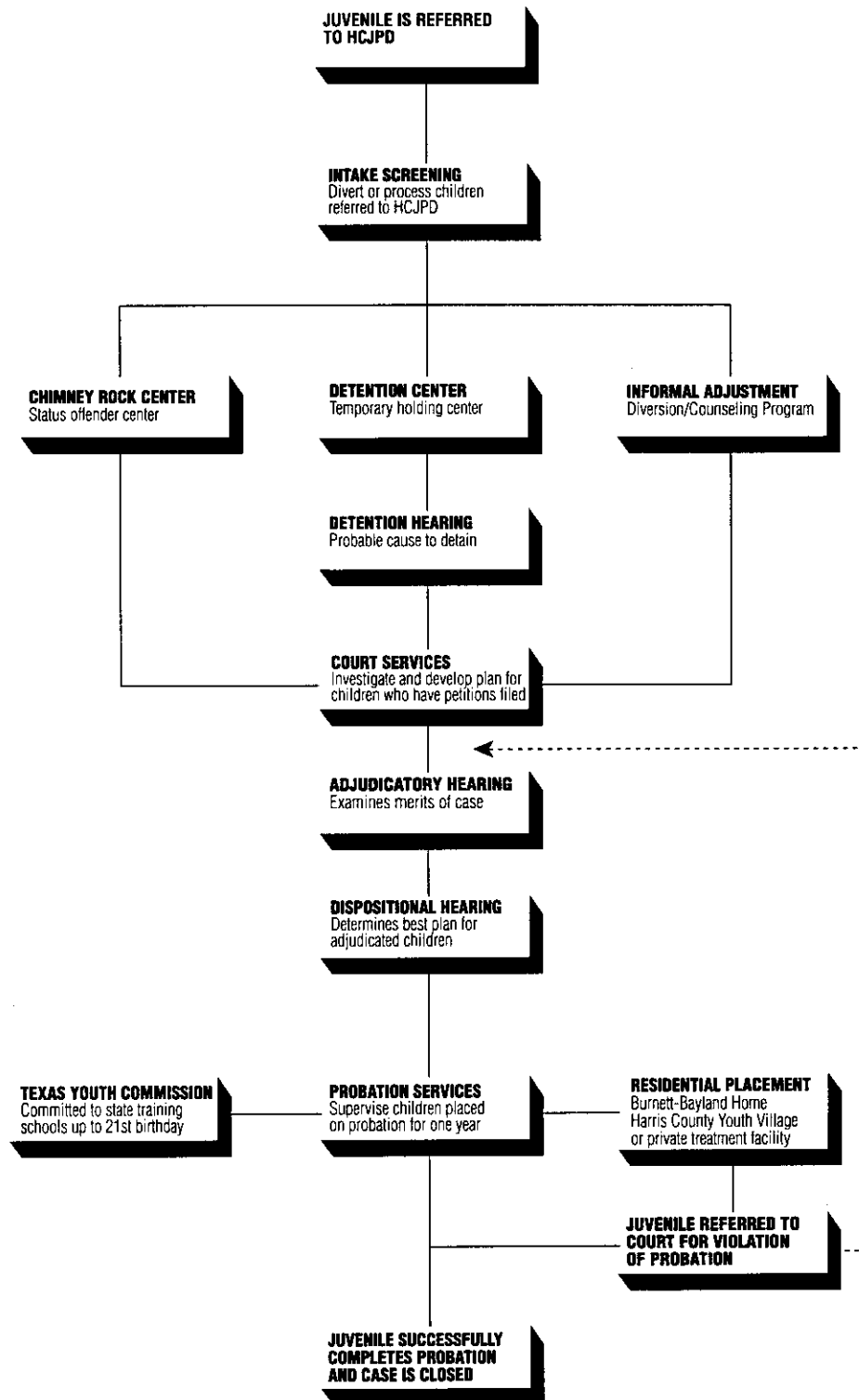
Intake Screening

A child picked up by law enforcement officers in Harris County may be taken to one of two intake units of the Juvenile Probation Department.

Intake Screening is responsible for assessing the child's immediate circumstances and deciding where the youth will stay prior to a court hearing. Two 24-hour intake units, one located in the Juvenile Detention Center and the other at Chimney Rock Center, receive and review incoming cases.

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CASE FLOW CHART

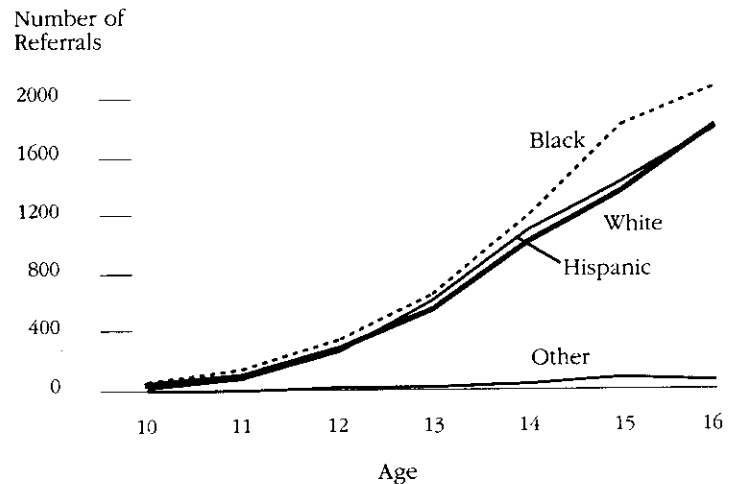


Offense Per Referral, 1989, 1990 and 1991

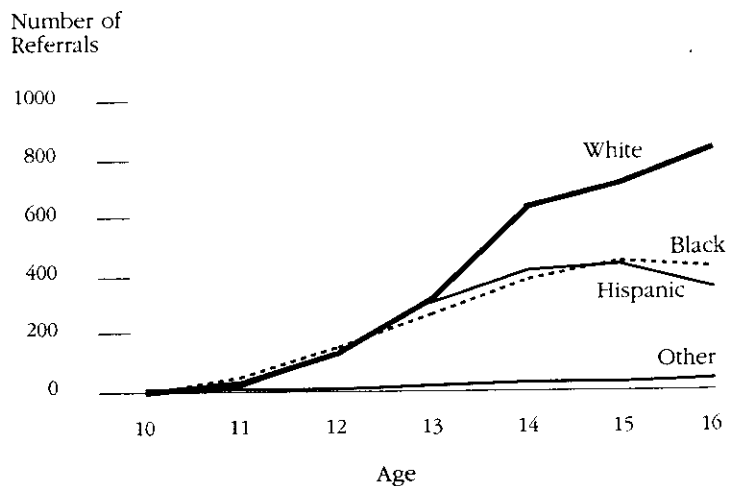
	1989	1990	1991
Murder	20	32	57
Arson	100	75	75
Assault			
Felony	247	336	389
Misd A/B	152	187	203
Misd C	1,024	1,000	1,192
Sexual Assault	126	152	160
Robbery	236	374	541
Burglary	1,698	1,642	1,994
Theft			
Felony	162	159	164
Misd A/B	1,627	1,810	2,049
Misd C	1,024	1,184	1,046
Auto Theft	565	714	894
Joyriding	677	857	918
Drugs			
Felony	519	584	732
Misd A/B	290	212	185
Misd C	384	525	379
Inhalants	50	40	58
Alcohol	15	10	25
Other			
Felony	515	602	738
Misd A/B	2,339	2,746	3,182
Disorderly Conduct	181	261	304
City Ordinance	196	299	275
Violation of Probation	327	230	249
Runaway (CHINS)*	4,678	4,288	5,563
Other (CHINS)* Offense	714	788	640
TYC Runaways	223	237	213
Administrative Actions	772	952	1,255
Total	18,861	20,296	23,480

* Children in need of supervision.

Referrals by age and ethnicity, males, 1991

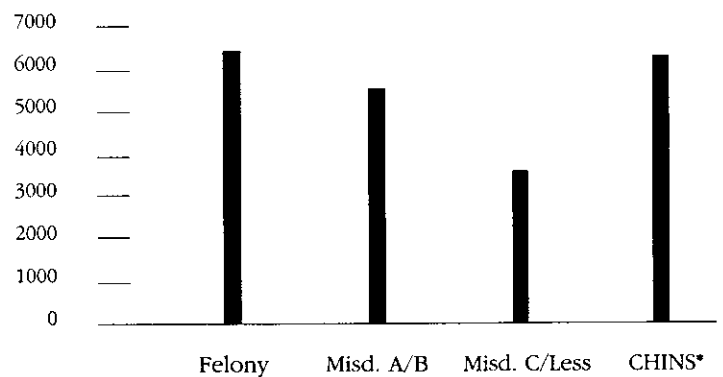


Referrals by age and ethnicity, females, 1991



Referral Source, 1991	
Baytown Police Department	641
Harris County Sheriff's Department	2,773
Houston Police Department	12,900
Pasadena Police Department	1,378
Other	5,788
Total	23,480

Types of referrals, 1991



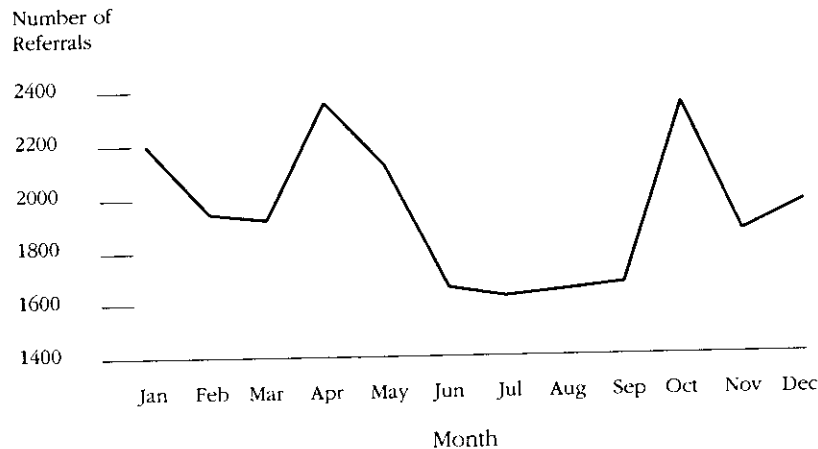
* Children in need of supervision

Referrals by School District and Ethnicity, 1991

	Black	Hispanic	White	Other	Total
Aldine	572	368	392	56	1,388
Alief	410	167	289	62	928
Channelview	7	26	113	2	148
Clear Creek	35	21	258	11	325
Crosby	36	14	53	0	103
Cypress	81	134	556	42	813
Deer Park	8	19	395	2	424
Galena Park	80	121	203	0	404
Goose Creek	181	218	301	2	702
Houston	4,350	3,526	888	51	8,815
Huffman	7	1	22	0	30
Humble	33	32	379	6	450
Katy	31	33	309	5	378
Klein	120	58	395	19	592
La Porte	36	26	141	0	203
North Forest	491	112	15	0	618
Pasadena	99	587	950	25	1,661
Pearland	0	4	9	0	13
Sheldon	17	14	49	0	80
Spring	128	56	284	11	479
Spring Branch	195	433	371	32	1,031
Stafford	2	2	16	1	21
Tomball	14	1	58	1	74
Waller	5	1	7	0	13
Private/parochial	47	75	179	7	308
Out of county	236	142	340	20	738
Not available					2,741
Total	7,221	6,191	6,972	355	23,480

Chimney Rock Center, a children's shelter and crisis facility, is jointly operated by the Juvenile Probation Department, Children's Protective Services and Mental Health/Mental Retardation Authority. Several other agencies provide services from the Center.

Number of referrals by month, 1991



Last year, probation intake staff at Chimney Rock Center provided screening, assessment, crisis intervention, counseling in status offenses (such as truancy, runaway and curfew violations) and Class C misdemeanors (such as alcohol violations). All other cases were reviewed at detention intake.

When a child is thought to present a threat to the community or himself, or is likely to abscond before trial, he will be held in detention. To prevent unnecessary detention, the in-custody diversion program concentrates on sending children home when appropriate and often provides transportation. Last year, this unit diverted 665 children from needless detention. The population cap set by the Juvenile Board in 1991 to avoid overcrowding in detention is an important consideration in the decision-making process.

Intake also provides monthly workshops on drug and alcohol abuse and other topics and refers youths and families to other agencies for assistance.

Court Services

Once the District Attorney's office has filed a petition, the court services staff prepares a comprehensive profile of the child and the case. This detailed report aids the judge in determining a suitable disposition by including specifics on the offense, the child's physical and emotional status, and school and family circumstances.

Three judges and two masters hear delinquency cases in three Harris County juvenile courts. They are the 313th, 314th and 315th District Courts, presided over by Judges Robert Lowry, Robert Baum and Eric Andell, respectively, and Master Ramona John, 313th and 315th District Courts, and Master Mary Craft, 314th District Court. If found delinquent or in need of supervision (CHINS), a child may be allowed to live at home under stringent rules of probation or be placed in a residential facility.

Court Activity, 1991

Disposition	
Probation	2,352
Probation/Restitution	315
Informal Adjustment	221
Committed to Texas Youth Commission	556
Certified to Criminal Court	29
Passed - Writ Issued	191
Passed	288
Non-Suit	711
Dismissed	22
Early Termination of Probation	20
Mental Health	4
Incentive Completed	116
Other	842
Total	5,667

Mental Health Mental Retardation Authority of Harris County

Evaluations for 1991	
Psychologicals	680
Psychiatrics	268
Family Evaluations	60
Total Evaluations	1,008

Placement Services

When it appears a child must be removed from his home, the Placement Services staff prepares a list of suitable residential institutions for the judge's review. From a list of approved facilities, they recommend those which best meet the child's specific needs. More and more, those needs are for drug treatment.

Residential Treatment Centers

AAMA - Casa Phoenix	5
Child & Adolescent Development	3
DePelchin Children's Home	2
Florence Crittendon	1
Gulf Coast Trades Center	48
Hope Center Wilderness Camp	9
Houston Achievement Place	3
Ivory Residential Treatment	11
Mary Lee Foundation	12
Mentors, Inc.	9
Nacogdoches Boys Ranch	6
Northwest Villa	4
Odyssey House	12
Progressive Adolescent (PALS)	6
Sandybrook	2
Tejas Home for Youth	3
Three Bar D Boys Ranch	4
Unity Children's Home	3
Vernon Drug Abuse Center	21
Number of youths placed during 1991	164*

*This does not include the Harris County Youth Village nor Burnett-Bayland Home totals.

INSTITUTIONS DIVISION

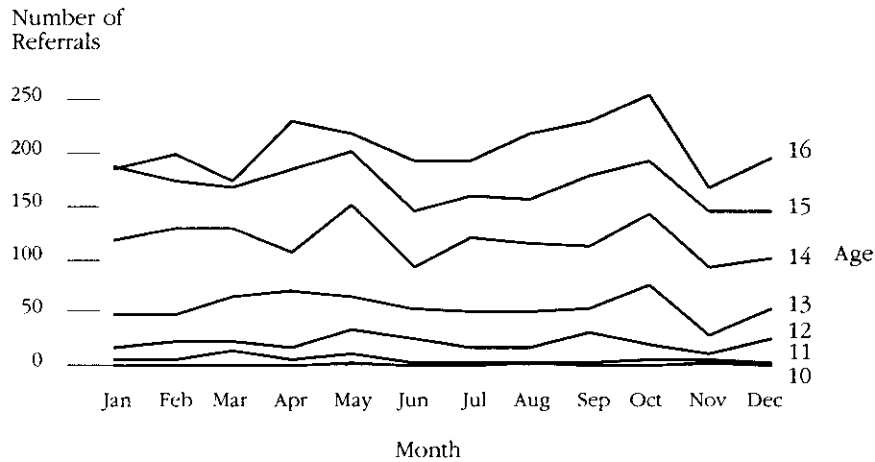
Three institutions are operated by the Probation Department: the Juvenile Detention Center, where children are held until court hearings; Burnett-Bayland Home, a residential facility with a community-based program; and the Harris County Youth Village, with a complete on-campus program.

Juvenile Detention Center

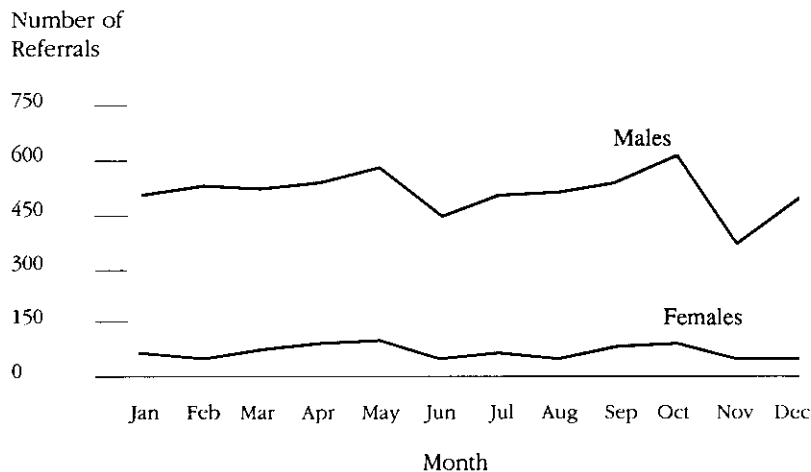
The Juvenile Detention Center is a secure, temporary residential facility for children requiring a restricted environment while awaiting court action.

The Center features 145 private sleeping rooms, 26 multi-purpose activity rooms, three gymnasiums, three outdoor playground areas, visitation and counseling areas,

Admissions to detention by month and age, 1991



Admissions to detention by month and sex, 1991



Offense Per Admission to Detention, 1989, 1990 and 1991

	1989	1990	1991
Murder	18	32	56
Arson	41	30	31
Assault			
Felony	157	225	251
Misd A/B	70	72	68
Misd C	77	93	71
Sexual Assault	66	64	61
Robbery	179	245	446
Burglary	871	793	962
Theft			
Felony	82	75	94
Misd A/B	478	481	541
Misd C	35	42	40
Auto Theft	372	462	575
Joyriding	455	595	614
Drugs			
Felony	408	469	589
Misd A/B	93	96	75
Misd C	39	66	59
Inhalants	10	12	29
Alcohol Misd C	0	1	11
Other			
Felony	212	243	328
Misd A/B	814	1,033	1,222
Disorderly Conduct	87	143	186
City Ordinance	20	48	44
Violation of Probation	177	41	118
Runaway (CHINS)*	320	321	260
Other (CHINS)* Offense	19	24	20
TYC Runaways	167	206	170
Administrative Actions	206	264	274
Total	5,473	6,176	7,195

* Children in need of supervision.

facilities for medical, dental, psychological and social services, a separate intake section and courtroom. Technologically advanced monitoring systems and innovative architectural designs provide security and safety without bars.

During their stay, children undergo physical and psychological assessments, short-term therapy and crisis intervention. Recreation specialists provide daily physical education activities. Highly trained staff and volunteers work with the children, promoting

feelings of self-worth, establishing trust and teaching them to relate to others through structured unit activities.

The Houston Independent School District provides a complete educational program. The program focuses on remedial reading, language and math skills in which these children are generally deficient.

Volunteers and other agencies provide additional services including health awareness, self-esteem workshops, tutoring, individual visitation and social activities.

Last year, 7,195 children were held in detention. Their offenses were of a much more serious and violent nature requiring intensive supervision by the staff. Although the population cap set by the Juvenile Board resulted in a lower number of children held in detention at any one time, the severity of their offenses is much greater than ever before.

Burnett-Bayland Home

Delinquent boys who do not require secure confinement, or those who are making a transition from the more restricted Youth Village to community life, may be placed by the court at Burnett-Bayland Home for up to one year. The children live in home-like cottages on the 40-acre park campus. They attend local public schools and may participate in extracurricular activities off-campus.

Civic organizations and citizen volunteers enhance the program with tutoring, counseling, education and recreation.

Family involvement is viewed as essential. Parents participate in regular educational meetings and other activities to prepare them for their child's transition back to home life. Family visitation is encouraged and children often enjoy weekends at home. In 1991, 152 boys lived at Burnett-Bayland. The average length of residence was 3.5 months.

Harris County Youth Village

The Youth Village is a more restricted facility located in the Clear Lake area. The lake-front campus provides a spacious setting for delinquent children in need of a more secure environment. Boys and girls are placed at the Youth Village for up to one year by court order. The program includes therapeutic, recreational, medical and drug counseling services. The Houston Independent School District operates an accredited school on campus with a full academic and vocational curriculum, including athletics, guidance and remedial education. With a small student-to-teacher ratio and an accelerated teaching

pace, many children overcome major scholastic deficiencies during their stay at the Youth Village. In addition to academic, computer and vocational instruction, children are taught "life skills" such as job hunting, responsible budgeting, household management, parenting and coping skills. In 1991, 266 children stayed at the Youth Village an average of 5.3 months.

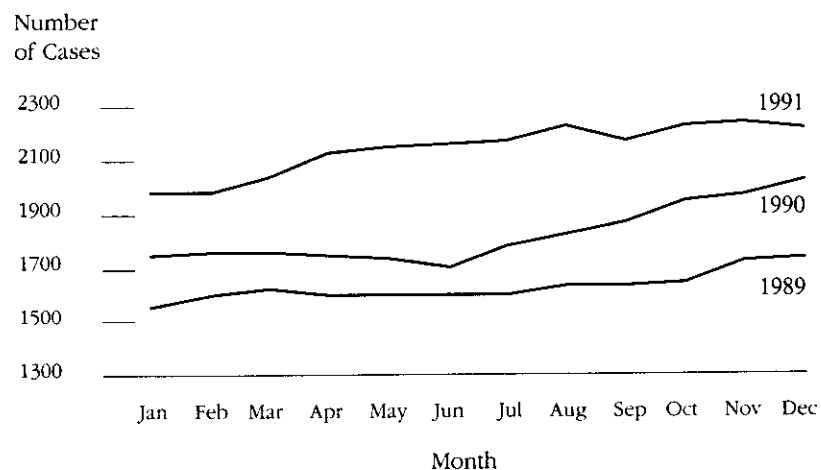
PROBATION FIELD SERVICES DIVISION

Most children who go through the court system are not placed in a residential facility but remain at home under probation supervision for up to one year. Probation supervision and rehabilitative services for children and their families are provided by the Field Services Division from ten offices conveniently located throughout Harris County. When a child has been declared delinquent and is placed on probation, the court sets rules of probation for the child.

General rules include reporting change of address, attending school or holding a job, not leaving the county without the probation officer's permission, curfew hours, restrictions on motor vehicle use and submitting to drug testing upon request. In addition, special rules may be imposed requiring the child to attend counseling or special educational programs, or to pay monetary and/or community service restitution.

In 1991, probation officers faced increasing challenges as more young probationers were involved with drugs and serious crimes. And with more young people getting into trouble, the probation officer's average caseload jumped to 71, nearly double that of a few short years ago. Although the additional officers employed by the Department

Probation case load, 1989, 1990 and 1991



1991 Field Services Programs

Description

<i>Educational Workshops</i>	Workshops for youths and families on various topics.
<i>Y.E.E.S. - Youth Education and Employment Services</i>	Tutorial, remedial, pre-employment training and G.E.D. preparation.
<i>Therapeutic Counseling</i>	Counseling by professional service providers with certified therapists.
<i>L.A.W.</i>	Legal Awareness Workshops presented by judges and attorneys.
<i>Peer Pressure Workshops</i>	Workshops presented by Houston Police Department on positive and negative effects of peers.
<i>Parent Training</i>	Classes teaching parenting skills.
<i>R.O.P.E.S. - Reality Oriented Physical Experiences</i>	Problem-solving experiences through physical tasks in a group setting.
<i>Vision Care</i>	University of Houston, School of Optometry, screens and examines youths, providing glasses and treatment.
<i>Restitution</i>	American Red Cross places probationers in community service projects.
<i>Prohibited Weapons</i>	Houston Police Department workshops teach consequences of possessing illegal weapons.
<i>Incentive Program</i>	A voluntary program that may shorten the probationary period.
<i>T.D.C.J. Outreach</i>	Youths visit T.D.C.J.-Institutional Division in Sugar Land and learn realities of prison life.
<i>N.C.T.I.</i>	National Corrections Educational/counseling for youths and family members.
<i>Art Program</i>	Youths learn to express themselves through visual arts, and develop artistic skills.
<i>Mentor Program</i>	Prominent community leaders are paired with probationers to provide positive role models.

relieved some of the burden, each officer was challenged to provide supervision to more and more children from dysfunctional families whose problems range from alcohol and drug abuse to violence and neglect. At the end of 1991, over 2,000 children were on probation.

Informal Adjustment

In some cases, the court or the Legal Screening Unit defers a child from the court system into the Informal Adjustment program.

Generally, this is a younger, non-violent offender who may be offered the option of voluntary participation or may be court-ordered into the program. Informal Adjustment guides children through six months of specialized programs, intensive counseling and supervision aimed at diverting them from the juvenile justice system. Drug-dependent children may participate in therapy and education. Other services include parent-training workshops, AIDS education and peer pressure programs designed to teach children to act responsibly. Upon successful completion of Informal Adjustment, the child's case is dismissed and a juvenile record avoided. In 1991, 601 children participated in the Informal Adjustment program.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

The Administrative Services Division oversees data control, research, computer support, personnel and legal screening services.

Data Control Systems

As children move through the justice system, the Data Control Systems Unit keeps the master file on each case, maintaining the Department's mainframe computer system and entering the initial information about the juvenile's alleged offense.

From this point, staff throughout the agency update case information to keep records current and complete.

Research, Planning and Evaluation

The Research, Planning and Evaluation Unit is responsible for compiling and analyzing data in response to administrative needs as well as to requests from outside sources. This unit monitors trends, develops special programs and evaluates the effectiveness of

existing programs. In addition, this unit seeks and develops appropriate grant proposals and applications for funding for special needs or to enhance specific care and services.

Computer Support Services

Computer Support Services is responsible for all personal computers used throughout the Department. Personal computer applications are designed, programmed and maintained by the Computer Support staff.

To keep up with the increasing volume of data generated by each case, a computer network was installed to link personal computers in the main building and detention. By the end of the year, 45 personal computers were on the network. The computer support staff maintains the personal computer network and also trains users on personal computer applications and various software packages.

Personnel

The Personnel Unit provides staffing for the Department and ensures that county hiring guidelines are followed throughout the agency. This unit posts available positions, processes employment applications and supervises screening and hiring. Personnel also maintains employment records for all Department staff. At the end of 1991, the Department employed 539 persons.

Legal Screening

The attorneys of the Legal Screening unit review all incoming felony and some misdemeanor cases to determine if legal grounds exist to file a delinquency petition. If legal grounds do not exist, the child in custody is released to a parent or guardian. By law, children who are detained receive a detention hearing within two working days of admission and every 10 days thereafter.

Legal Screening attorneys represent the District Attorney's Office in these hearings and must show due cause for detaining the child. Through periodic training workshops and consultation, Legal Screening provides training to new agency employees and volunteers, updating them on any changes in juvenile law. This unit also answers inquiries from police officers or complainants and helps to increase community awareness of juvenile issues through public speaking.

ANCILLARY SERVICES

Several agency units report directly to the Executive Director or Assistant Executive Director and provide services to the family courts or to other areas of the Department.

Family Court Services

Although administered by the Juvenile Probation Department, Family Court Services handles cases of adoption and disputed child custody rather than delinquency cases. Family Court officers investigate cases and prepare comprehensive social histories through home visits, interviews with relatives, neighbors, employers, law enforcement and school officials and other relevant sources. This history aids the judge in determining whether to grant adoption or where to place custody. In 1991, this unit researched 656 child custody cases and 645 adoption cases for twelve district courts which hear such cases. A child who cannot stay in his home during the Family Court investigation is temporarily placed in a residential facility. Such arrangements are made by the Family Court Services staff.

Budget and Supportive Services

The Budget Unit oversees the Department's fiscal operations including preparation and management of the annual budget, and regulates receipts and expenditures.

1991 Budget

Source of Funds	Amount
Harris County Commissioners' Court	\$21,468,082
Texas Juvenile Probation Commission:	
State Aid to Counties	1,324,389
Intensive Supervision Grant	40,000
Diversionary Placement Grant	45,000
Criminal Justice Division/Governor's Office	
Purchases of Services Grant	387,797
Private Funding Brown Foundation, Inc.	
Pen Power Project	50,000
Serious Offender Counseling Grant	50,000
Junior League of Houston, Inc.	
Video Equipment	2,382
Total Juvenile Probation Funding	\$23,367,650

In 1991, the Department operated with a combined budget of \$23,367,650. The funds were received from four primary sources: Harris County Commissioners' Court, Texas Juvenile Probation Commission, the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor's Office and the Brown Foundation, Inc. The Supportive Services Unit handles payroll, insurance benefits, staff identification, office inventories, general supplies, mail and courier services and the print shop. Building and grounds maintenance are also provided by Supportive Services. This year, adult probationers in a community restitution program also assisted with grounds maintenance.

Training and Staff Development

The Training and Staff Development Unit provides in-service training to enhance staff skills and meet the state training standards for probation officers. To maintain state certification, probation officers are required to attend 40 hours of accredited training per year. The Training Unit researches and coordinates training programs for child care workers, secretaries, computer personnel, administrative staff and all probation officers. Training topics included drug and alcohol awareness, HIV and AIDS education, self defense and physical restraint training and stress management. In 1991, over 372 workshops provided 2,730 training hours. The increase in HIV infection and AIDS among clients along with the fears and perceived risk of infection from clients to staff prompted the development of the program entitled "HIV and AIDS: The Challenge for Juvenile Probation." A total of 371 staff attended for a total of 124 hours.

Volunteers

In 1991, the Department operated with almost as many volunteers as paid staff. Carefully screened and trained, these volunteers donated invaluable talents and time, enabling the Department to provide highly specialized, personal attention to our children. The two primary sources for volunteers are Juvenile Court Volunteers and the Junior League of Houston.

Juvenile Court Volunteers, Inc., a United Way agency, provides individual counseling, tutoring, educational workshops and recreational activities. Court Volunteers also bring companionship to detained children through parties, visitation and special events. One of the most innovative and effective programs initiated this year by Junior Court Volunteers is the Foster Grandparent program which involves seniors from the community who work as teacher aides in detention providing support and individualized attention.

In 1991, the 265 Juvenile Court Volunteers donated 30,456 hours of service valued at \$11.69 per hour, or nearly \$357,000! Junior League of Houston volunteers worked 6,500 hours with children and families in 1991 valued at \$76,000. The 94 volunteers provided their skills and support to programs and services such as individual counseling, intake counseling, parent education, educational/vocational counseling, tutoring and drug counseling.

Many other private citizens and members of civic and church organizations volunteered over 6,700 hours to Harris County children and families in our juvenile justice system this year. These volunteer programs integrate the community with the agency partnership which enables us to meet mutual goals of providing quality services to redirect the lives of many youths in Harris County.

Student Interns

Fifty-eight students participated in the Department's student intern program in 1991. Eighteen of these were from the University of Houston's Graduate School of Social Work; the rest attended various other local and state colleges and universities. They worked throughout the agency in a variety of positions, receiving training and experience in juvenile corrections. Interns provided 17,000 hours of service to 2,700 children and their families.

Public Information Office

The Public Information Office is responsible for providing meaningful and accurate information to the news media, other agencies, public officials, academic institutions and interested citizens. The office provides 24-hour, immediate response to media inquiries, maintains video and news clipping reference files, produces the annual report and other publications; briefs administration on breaking news situations; and works to maximize public and media access to the juvenile justice system within legal constraints. The goals of the public information office are to increase public understanding of juvenile corrections and to build community support for the agency's mission.

This office also coordinates agency arts program, acting as the interface with art organizations and artists, and generating opportunities for public exhibitions and performances of the children's works.

In 1991, Transco Energy Company donated services and costs for the Spanish translation of the video, "When a Child Breaks the Law," which they produced for the Department in 1990. Copies of the video were distributed for use by Hispanic clients and their families as well as for educational presentations.



In 1984, Dianne Logan became the first Public Information Officer of the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department. The office she created has become a vital resource in juvenile justice information both locally and nationally. Dianne developed an excellent working relationship with the news media, increasing public awareness and understanding of the plight of juvenile offenders. In addition to her work with reporters, Dianne brought the arts to young offenders in Harris County. The combination of visual arts, theater, dance and creative writing made available to young probationers, has won a national award for being the most innovative and unique program in juvenile justice. The Department's annual reports which she designed and edited won national awards in 1987, 1988 and 1990. We wish Dianne good luck as she continues to bring a message of hope to youth through the Southwest Correctional Arts Network.

Credits

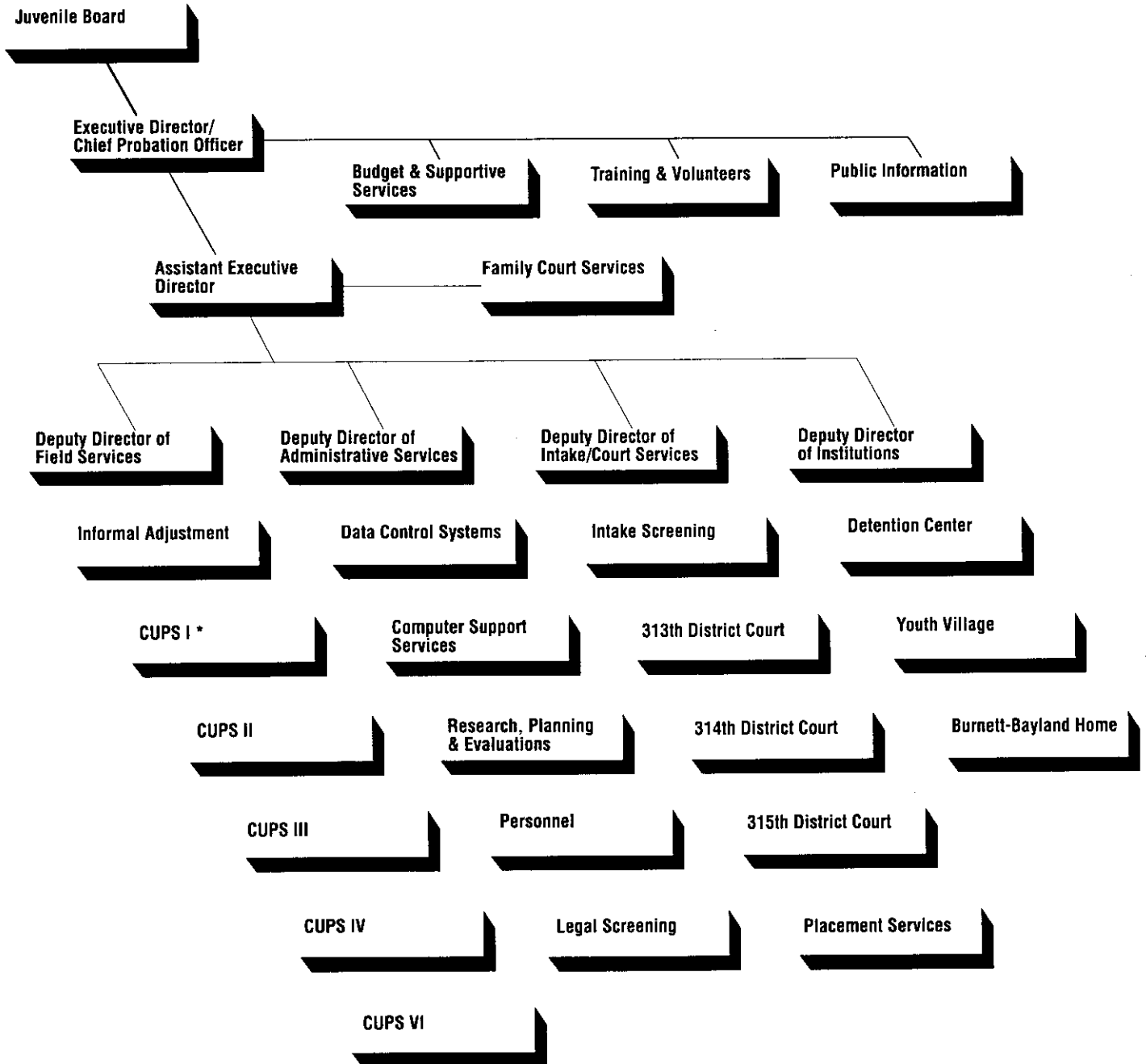
Design and production supervision by Ed Haapaniemi of Haapaniemi Design.

Photography by Ben DeSoto of the Houston Chronicle.

Cocoros photo by Betty Tichich.

Printing by Brunswick Press.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



* CUPS / Community Unit Probation Services

HARRIS COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT, 1991

Administrative Staff

John A. Cocoros 1991 Executive Director, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer

Teresa V. Ramirez 1992 Executive Director, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer

Administrative Services

Harvey Hetzel Deputy Director, Administrative Services

Kay Hayes Administrator, Data Control Systems

Frank Dear Administrator, Computer Support Services

Phyllis Kisor Administrator, Research, Planning & Evaluation

Charles Phipps Supervisor, Personnel

Rick Valadez Senior Attorney, Legal Screening

Intake Court Services

Bernard Hunter Deputy Director, Intake Court Services

Bob Husbands Administrator, Intake Screening

Pat Wade Administrator, 313th District Court

Alice Sweeney-Herd Administrator, 314th District Court

Joe Gratehouse Administrator, 315th District Court

Debbie Williams Administrator, Placement Services

Field Services

Elmer Bailey, Jr. Deputy Director, Field Services

Linda Crocker Supervisor, Informal Adjustment

Walter Jackson Supervisor, Community Unit Probation Services / CUPS I *

Mike Beck Supervisor, Community Unit Probation Services / CUPS II

M. Julia Ramirez Supervisor, Community Unit Probation Services / CUPS III

Cheryl Keating Supervisor, Community Unit Probation Services / CUPS IV

Charlie Fairles Supervisor, Community Unit Probation Services / CUPS

Institutional Services

John A. Peters Deputy Director, Institutions

James K. Martins Superintendent, Detention Center

Ronald Niksich Superintendent, Youth Village

Larry Smith Superintendent, Burnett-Bayland Home

Ancillary Services

Joseph H. Funches Court Systems Manager

Mary Craft Juvenile Court Master

Ramona John Juvenile Court Master

John W. Sukols Administrator, Budget & Supportive Services

Jo Ann Jones Administrator, Training & Volunteers

Dianne Logan Public Information Officer

Veronica Morgan-Price Juvenile Court Referee Master

Betty Cossey Director, Family Court Services

* CUPS, Community Unit Probation Services

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